2008. During the meetings, discussions were held on bilateral relations in the fields of trade and economy, energy, defence, science & technology and culture. Regional and international issues of mutual interest, were also discussed.

Production of AJTs in the country

3897. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Advanced Jet Trainers (AJTs) Government has received so far recently from abroad;

(b) the total number of AJTs likely to be received from abroad in the near future from various sources;

(c) whether Government is also considering a proposal to start its production in the country; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) A contract was signed by the Government with M/s BAE Systems UK for procurement of 66 HAWK Advanced Jet Trainer (AJTs) aircraft for Indian Air Force. Out of these, 24 aircraft are to be induced through direct supply from abroad and 42 are to be manufactured by M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) under transfer of technology. So far 10 aircraft have been received from M/s BAE Systems UK. All 42 aircraft to be manufactured by HAL are to be supplied by 2010-2011.

IAF aircraft crashes

†3898. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Air Force aircrafts crashed in the country during the last five years;

(b) the reasons behind these air crashes;

(c) the number of pilots who have lost their lives in the air crashes; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check the crashes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A total number of 61 Indian Air Force's (IAF) aircraft have crashed during the last five years (financial years 2003-2004 to 2007-2008).

(b) The main reasons behind these crashes were Human Error and Technical Defects.

(c) A total number of 30 pilots have lost their lives in the air crashes during the said period.

(d) A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Indian Air Force to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), both

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

indigenous and foreign, is also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Besides, anti-bird hit measures are also undertaken.

Strengthening of patrolling along Indian waters

3899. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that representations have been made to Government for strengthening of patrolling along Indian waters to ensure that our fishermen are not seized by foreign countries near our borders;

(b) is it a fact that the Coast Guard is not giving priority to such duties to protect our fishermen and fishing boats; and

(c) if so, the measures proposed to give direction to Coast Guard to give top priority to protecting our fishermen and fishery sector?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) While a few representations regarding the security of our fishermen have been received, Indian Coast Guard along with Indian Navy are giving due priority to carrying out regular patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL)/Indian Maritime Zone and guiding our fishermen from crossing over our waters to avoid getting caught in any unfortunate incident. Over the years there have been a declining trend of our boats and fishermen being apprehended by bordering countries.

Coast Guard undertakes community interaction programmes wherein the fishermen living in the coastal villages are educated about the perils of crossing IMBL, i.e. apprehension by the security agencies and issues like safety at sea, search and rescue procedure, use of available communication and safety equipment at sea.

There have been number of occasions wherein Coast Guard has proactively rescued Indian fishermen.

Demonstration of Integrated Air Defence system by DRDO

3900. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether DRDO (Defence Research & Development Organisation) is planning a demonstration of Integrated Air Defence System in exo-atmosphere (above 40 km altitude) and endo-atmosphere (below 30 km) before June, 2008;

(b) if so, whether this follows successful test fire of an interceptor missile from Wheeler Island;

(c) whether this system will have built-in features to double up as a tactical missile apart from functioning as an extended air defence system to engage target aircraft beyond 100 km; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard will be taken and whether any programme to indigenize radars is to be put in place?